NEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE: (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Article 16(4A) of the Constitution, the Government issued orders in August, 1997 which provide for continuance of reservation in promotion, as was then prevalent, for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the services/posts under the Central Government beyond 15.11.1997 till such time as the representation of each of these two categories in each cadre reaches the prescribed percentages of reservation whereafter the reservation in promotion has to maintain the representation to the extent of the prescribed percentages for the respective categories. All Ministries/Departments were also requested to bring these instructions to the notice of the Public Sector Undertakings and statutory bodies, etc.

**Publication of Classified Documents**

2392. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government records of classified documents are required to be published/or made available to the public after the lapse of 25 years; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure being followed permitting people to have access to such documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per Public Records Act, 1993 of the Government of India, all unclassified public Records, which are more than 30 years old, are transferred to the National Archives of India and are made available to bonafide research scholars. Access to the public records in the

custody of National Archives of India is governed by the Public Records Rules, 1997.

**Delays in Decision Making due to Obsolete Methods**

2393. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that delays in decision making due to old and obsolete methods are leading to corruption and decision are taken which give no relief to the people concerned; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce delays due to the present filling systems which have no advantage over modern technological methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government is conscious of the delay in the decision making processes. Measures have been taken for simplification of laws, rules, and procedures under its policy of preventive vigilance as well as for improving efficiency in organisations. The Government had also set up a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws on May 8, 1998 to make recommendations for repeal/amendment of laws, regulations, procedures, legislative processes etc. The Commission submitted its report on September, 30, 1998. Most of the Ministries have accordingly initiated action to bring about suitable amendments—modifications in the Acts, procedures etc. being administered by them with a view to improve service delivery and bring about transparency in the functioning of the Government. Suitable guidelines have been laid down in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure to ensure quick disposal of cases. Various checks have also been provided to monitor and reduce the pendency of cases in the Government offices. Efforts are made constantly to ensure quick disposal of files by incorporating suitable changes in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure applicable to offices of all Ministries/Departments of the